

NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW FEBRUARY 3-28, 2014

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

If you are using this material, please include this disclaimer.

This daily press review is compiled by the Information Section of the Public Affairs Office of the American Embassy in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The opinions expressed in these reviews in no way reflect the views of the United States Government and are presented for informational purposes only. The accuracy of reports contained in this summary has not been confirmed by the Embassy. For questions regarding this service, please contact: Mr. Folli Teko in the Public Affairs Press Office, TekoFX@state.gov.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 28, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara to return from medical trip Sunday, made first public appearance yesterday
2. Police disband meeting of Ivoirian civil society group
3. Power supply: The Ivoirian parliament adopts new bill to meet growing demand
4. The Ivoirian government and bidders at loggerheads on steps to clear interior debt
5. The trial of former elite forces chief Dogbo Ble to reopen next month
6. "No problem between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia," Ivoirian Defense Minister Koffi Koffi says
7. UNOCI chief visits Mount Peko in western Cote d'Ivoire

1. President Ouattara to return from medical trip Sunday, made first public appearance yesterday

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490425.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490344.html>

Most newspapers headline President Ouattara's visit to the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in Paris at which he announced that his operation had gone well, his health was improving, and that he will return to Côte d'Ivoire on Sunday. **Le Patriote (pp.2-3)** notes that several political forces are planning to greet Ouattara at the airport. **Le Nouveau Reveil (p.3)** notes that PDCI leader Henri Konan Bedié will greet Ouattara at the airport. Both **Soir Info (p.4)** and **Le Jour Plus (p.4)** quote pro-Ouattara politicians encouraging FPI leadership to greet Ouattara at the airport on his return.

Both **Notre Voie (p.3)** and **Le Temps (p. 7)** emphasized the fact that Ouattara is now using a cane while walking. **Le Temps (p.7)** also denies reports in pro-Ouattara papers that King Mohammed VI of Morocco extended his stay in Abidjan to await Ouattara's return. Rather, **Le Temps** argues that problems with the King's schedule in Conakry caused him to delay his visit to Guinea, which is the next stop on his itinerary.

2. Police disband meeting of Ivoirian civil society group

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490425.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490344.html>

According to a report in **L'Inter (p. 3)**, the Ivoirian police yesterday forced members of Ivoirian civil society group Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne (CSCI) to call off their meeting. The daily notes that the CSCI was due to hold a two-day workshop to discuss ways to strengthen the role of civil society groups and to ensure their independence from political interference. According to CSCI official, Dr. Christophe Kouame, the police injunction was illegal, but he called on members to remain upbeat and committed to fighting corruption, the lack of good governance and rule of law.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5) carries a similar account, adding that the incident could also be traced to a leadership conflict opposing two dissident factions within the CSCI. **Notre Voie (P. 4)** says the government is in part responsible for this situation as it has been trying to control the group.

3. Power supply: The Ivoirian parliament adopts new bill to meet growing demand

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490356.html>

A new code for the electricity and power supply was passed yesterday by the Ivoirian National Assembly. The information is reported by **Le Patriote (P. 12)**, which notes that, according to Ivoirian Minister of Oil and Energy, the new bill will better organize the sector and ensure demands are met. Under this new code, Cote d'Ivoire will develop renewable energy and bioenergy to address and streamline the growing demands.

Fraternite Matin (p. 19) also reports on the new code, adding that the move is meant to make electricity accessible to all Ivoirians.

4. The Ivoirian government and bidders at loggerheads on steps to clear interior debt

The Ivoirian government and its suppliers are at loggerheads on ways to pay interior debt. The information is reported by **Aujourd'hui (p. 8)**. The paper notes that the government recently decided to pay half of its suppliers' bills in 2014 and the remaining half in three installments. This proposal has been rejected by bidders, who recently voiced their concerns. According to Faustin Gre, the leader of a union of government service providers, this measure is not likely to work out for private companies. "Under this measure we will have no other option than to close our businesses," he reportedly said, calling on the government to reconsider its decision.

5. The trial of former elite forces chief Dogbo Ble to reopen next month

According to a report in **Soir Info (P. 4)**, the trial of the former chief of the elite forces, the Republican Guard, and former President Laurent Gbagbo's right-hand man, Bruno Dogbo Ble, is to reopen again on March 24. General Dogbo Ble has appealed a court sentence to serve 15 years in prison for the murder of Colonel Major Adama Dosso during the 2010 post-electoral crisis. According to his legal aide, Mathurin Gaoua, General Dogbo Ble was not given a fair trial. "He is a military staff but his case was not handled by a military court," he complained.

6. "No problem between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia," Ivoirian Defense Minister Koffi

On the margins of a meeting with Defense Attachés accredited to Côte d'Ivoire, Minister for Defense Koffi Koffi Paul told journalists that he had discussed the attack on Grabo with his Liberian counterpart and that relations between the two countries are good. This discussion followed recent reports that the Liberian Minister of Defense had denied that the attack had come from Liberia. (**Le Nouveau**

Reveil p.7; L'Inter p.6)

7. UNOCI chief visits Mount Peko in western Cote d'Ivoire

L'Inter (p.2) notes that UN SRSG Aïchatou Mindaoudou visited Mount Peko on Tuesday. She met with the Prefets of Duékoué and Bangolo and the Sous-Prefet of Bagohou as well as local communities to discuss the reintegration of families currently living in the Mount Peko forest. **Le Jour Plus (p.4)** speculates that it could take several years to remove the illegal inhabitants from the forest.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Cocoa-nomics: Why chocolate really doesn't grow on trees](#)

[Is your chocolate bar worth a child's life? Documentary lays bare child slavery in West Africa's cocoa plantations - and what is being done to free them](#)

[Ivory Coast demobilizes 27,000 ex-militiamen](#)

[I.Coast aims to tap massive mining potential with new rules](#)

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo
6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 27, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara and Speaker Soro meet in Paris**
2. **National Assembly commission adopts bills on transparency**
3. **Prime Minister Duncan in Abuja to attend celebration of Nigeria's unification**
4. **Experts from Mano River countries evaluate human rights situation in the region**

1. President Ouattara and Speaker Soro meet in Paris

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490299.html>

[http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/10180-quillaume-soro-](http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/10180-quillaume-soro-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98%E2%80%99ai-vu-le-pr%C3%A9sident-ouattara-en-chair-et-en-os-comme-dirait-l'autre%E2%80%99%E2%80%99)

[%](http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/10180-quillaume-soro-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98%E2%80%99ai-vu-le-pr%C3%A9sident-ouattara-en-chair-et-en-os-comme-dirait-l'autre%E2%80%99%E2%80%99)

http://www.imatin.net/article/politique/exclusivite-quillaume-soro-depuis-paris-ldquo-j-ai-vu-le-president-il-va-bien-rdquo_17166_1393487478.html

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13274-audience-du-chef-de-l%E2%80%99C3%A9tat-quillaume-soro-%C3%A0-paris-pour-rencontrer-alassane-ouattara>

http://www.imatin.net/article/politique/le-president-de-l-rsquo-assemblee-nationale-fait-le-point-de-la-situation-politique-a-alassane-ouattara_17154_1393425055.html

http://www.lepatriote.net/une_det.php?id=466

<http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/alassane-ouattara-va-bien-il-est-presse-de-rentre-a-abidjan-quillaume-soro-13992.html>

A meeting yesterday between President Alassane Ouattara, who is recovering in Paris, France after undergoing surgery, and the Speaker of the Ivoirian National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, is prominently reported in several newspapers today. "I saw President Ouattara; he is doing well," **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** quotes the speaker as saying after the meeting. Soro also told reporters that "we also laughed about the gossip and other rumors being peddled in Abidjan," about the president's health. The report also says that Soro used the occasion to brief the president on his recent trips to Niger, Tunisia and Congo where he delivered messages from President Ouattara. In the wake of the meeting between Ouattara and Soro, **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** claims that the speaker of the National Assembly has "definitively put an end to rumors" about President Ouattara's health. The paper also speculates about the possibility of the president returning home on Sunday. The paper recalls that the president was originally scheduled to return home in mid-March and that the decision to return earlier was made in order to meet with King Mohammed VI of Morocco who arrived in Abidjan last Sunday as part of an official visit. **Le Patriote (p. 2), Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3), L'Expression (p. 2), Le Nouveau Reveil (pp. 2&3), Soir Info (p. 3), L'Inter (p. 3)** also quote official and diplomatic sources as saying that President Ouattara will come home on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a report in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** suggests that President Ouattara's ruling RDR party has not yet confirmed that the president will return home on Sunday. According to a report in pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, President Ouattara is still admitted at the American Hospital of Neuilly in Paris, where he met with Senegalese President Macky Sall on Tuesday. The paper also indicates that President Ouattara's RDR party issued a statement yesterday announcing the return of the president without providing the date.

2. National Assembly commission adopts bills on transparency

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490272.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490312.html>

Several newspapers today report on three bills on transparency that were adopted yesterday by the commission on financial and economic affairs of the National Assembly. The bills, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**, were submitted by the Minister in charge of economy, Niala Kaba, who was at the parliament yesterday to explain the rationale behind the bills.

Reporting on this issue, **Soir Info (p. 8)** quotes Minister Kaba as saying that one of the goals of the bills is to protect individuals who make deposits in banks both in Cote d'Ivoire and in countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The minister, according to the paper, also revealed that nearly 800,000 dormant bank accounts, containing about FCFA 62 billion (about US \$124 million) have been identified in UEMOA member countries. Out of these 800,000 dormant accounts, about 450,000 have been found in Cote d'Ivoire, containing about FCFA 40 billion (about US \$80 million).

3. Prime Minister Duncan in Abuja to attend celebration of Nigeria's unification

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/466937.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/467004.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490269.html>

Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan flew to Abuja, Nigeria yesterday to attend the festivities marking 100 years of unification of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** quotes a statement issued by the office of the prime minister as saying. The article also says that the prime minister is accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Charles Koffi Diby and the Minister of African Integration and Ivoirian Diaspora.

4. Experts from Mano River countries evaluate human rights situation in the region

Fraternite Matin (p. 14) and **L'Inter (p. 6)** today report that human rights activists and heads of the national human rights commission from Mano River Union member countries are meeting in Abidjan to assess the human rights situation in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The goal of the meeting is to develop strategies to improve human rights in the region based on recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States.

-

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[The Popular Front is back in business](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire: Worries Over Looming Ivoirian Polls](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo's Party Recovers Political Might Ahead of Ivorian Elections](#)

[Armajaro Sees Ecom Deal Threatened by Ivory Coast Ruling](#)

[Ivory Coast's new cardinal intends to advance peace in his country](#)

[Ivory Coast Plans to Increase Rice Production by 2.7 Times by 2016](#)

-

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

[Le Jour Plus](#) - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

[Le Mandat](#) - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

[Le Temps](#) - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 26, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Cote d'Ivoire and Morocco sign trade agreements**
2. **National Assembly commission adopts bill on mining**
3. **UN to reinforce security in west after cross border raid**
4. **Pan-African radio to be launched in Abidjan**

1. Cote d'Ivoire and Morocco sign trade agreements

<https://www.maliweb.net/international/signature-de-26-accords-bilateraux-la-cote-divoire-le-maroc-198431.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490127.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/13258-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-maroc-26-accords-de-coop%C3%A9ration-et-conventions-de-partenariat-sign%C3%A9s>

http://www.qouv.ci/actualite_1.php?recordID=4293

http://www.imatin.net/article/economie/cote-d-ivoire-maroc-26-projets-de-cooperation-signes_17110_1393400009.html

Several agreements signed yesterday by King Mohammed VI and Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan to boost partnership between Cote d'Ivoire and Morocco make prominent headlines in the press today. According to **Fraternite Matin (pp. 6&7)**, the 26 trade agreements cover different sectors such as promotion of foreign investments and commercial exchange, development of financial markets, fishing, agriculture, and mining. Another report in this paper also says that King Mohammed VI and the Ivoirian Prime Minister launched a 2,600 unit housing project in the district of Abidjan. Morocco has also pledged to support social projects in Cote d'Ivoire valued at more than FCFA 145 billion CFA (about US \$290 million).

Reporting on the partnership between Cote d'Ivoire and Morocco, **L'Expression (p. 7)** announces that the Attijariwafa bank, which operates in the Maghreb region, has pledged FCFA 120 billion (about US \$240 million) to support economic reforms underway in Cote d'Ivoire.

2. National Assembly commission adopts bill on mining

The National Assembly's commission in charge of economic and financial affairs yesterday adopted a bill on a new mining code in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 16)**. According to the paper, the bill was adopted unanimously by members of the commission. Speaking before the commission, Ivoirian Minister of Mining Jean Claude Brou stated the necessity for Cote d'Ivoire to have a new mining code in order to stabilize mining activities in the country.

3. UN to reinforce security in west after cross border raid

<http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/l-onuci-annonce-un-renforcement-de-son-dispositif-securitaire-a-l-ouest-apres-l-attaque-de-grabo-13897.html>

http://webplus.imatin.net/lebabi.net/56161_l-onuci-annonce-un-renforcement-de-son-dispositif-securitaire-a-l-ouest-apres-l-attaque-de-grabo

<http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/96733/cote-divoire-malgre-grabo-lonuci-conduit-delegation-de-haut-niveau-man-bangolo>

http://www.imatin.net/article/securite/menace-de-destabilisation-de-la-cote-d-ivoire-l-onu-defie-les-assaillants_17072_1393312346.html

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/490134.html>

-

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Côte d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou, announced Tuesday that she will reinforce ONUCI security forces in western Côte d'Ivoire following the

incursion near Grabo that resulted in five deaths, including four FRCI (**Le Jour Plus p. 4**). While carrying the same report **Aujourd'hui (p. 3)** also reports(**p.4**) that the Liberian Minister of Defense has denied that Liberians or individuals coming from Liberia attacked a border post in south-western Côte d'Ivoire. **Le Temp (p. 5)**, for its part, publishes a commentary noting the recent arrival of French troops and speculating that the French and ONUCI were being called upon to secure the country during President Ouattara's illness.

4. Pan-African radio to be launched in Abidjan

Fraternite Matin (p. 7) reports that a pan-African radio station will be launched soon in Abidjan. Dubbed "Hit Radio," the station will start broadcasting from Abidjan, the Ivoirian commercial capital, the paper reports the director Eli Kodjoakou as saying yesterday at a press conference. According to Kodjoakou, Hit Radio, which is being sponsored by King Mohammed VI of Morocco to promote South-South cooperation, has been broadcasting since 2006 in Morocco.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Cote d'Ivoire: Urgent Electoral Reforms Needed Ahead of Polls in Côte d'Ivoire - UN Expert](http://www.spyghana.com/morocco-sets-new-bonds-cooperation-cote-divoire/)

<http://www.spyghana.com/morocco-sets-new-bonds-cooperation-cote-divoire/>

[Ivory Coast eyes rice self-sufficiency with foreign firms' help](#)

[Ivory Coast not ready for elections, U.N. says](#)

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 25, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley meets with former Ivoirian president Bedie**
2. **Ivoirian soldiers train on military justice**
3. **Opposition leader meets head of reconciliation commission,**
4. **King Mohammed VI, Prime Minister Duncan launch joint economic forum in Abidjan**
5. **Continued Problems at the University**

1. **U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley meets with former Ivoirian president Bedie**

U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley yesterday met with former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie at his residence in Abidjan, reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 5)**. This is the first time Ambassador McCulley met with Mr. Bedie who is also the president of the PDCI-RDA party. The meeting, the paper reports Ambassador McCulley as saying, is "part of our consultations with Cote d'Ivoire's political leaders." "We talked about the social, economic and political situation in Cote d'Ivoire," Ambassador McCulley said. He also used the occasion to stress on "the importance of relations between Cote d'Ivoire and the United States."

2. **Ivoirian soldiers train on military justice**

Several newspapers including **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**, **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** and **L'Inter (p. 3)** report on a seminar on military justice that opened yesterday in Abidjan. According to the papers, the training is sponsored by the government of the United States through the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies. The training will focus on capacity building in the rule of law for both military and civil personnel. The program, according to the paper, will also enable the Ivoirian military justice to improve its performance.

3. **Opposition leader meets head of reconciliation commission**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/489057.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1225>
- <http://www.nordsudquotidien.com/apres-bedie-le-fpi-sollicite-banny/>

Several newspapers report on the meeting between Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) President Charles Konan Banny and FPI President Pascal Affi N'Guessan. Several newspapers quote Affi N'Guessan as urging the CDVR to be involved in restoring confidence and promoting reconciliation. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p.9)** further noted Affi's particular interest in the question of political prisoners and exiles. **La Patriote (p.4)** focuses on Banny's comments about the progress that has been made to date. **L'Inter (p.2)** also reports on a training session for local agents responsible for piloting hearings in Abidjan, Agboville, Adzopé, Duékué, Gagnoa, Bouaké, Bondoukou, and Korhogo. **Nord Sud (p.3)** reports that after meeting with the FPI, Banny also met with the leaders of LIDER and the UPDCI.

4. **King Mohammed VI, Prime Minister Duncan launch joint economic forum in Abidjan**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/489019.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1806>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/489072.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5)** says King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Duncan have called for a strong private sector in Africa. According to the paper, the two men made the call yesterday at the launching of the Ivoirian-Moroccan economic forum designed to promote trade and economic partnership between Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco. The report also says that the volume of global exchange between the two countries accounted for more than FCFA 47

billion (about US \$94 million) in 2012 as opposed to more than FCFA 39 billion (about US \$78 million) in 2010. The paper also report the head Moroccan business managers, Miriem Bensallah, as saying that Moroccan investment in Cote d'Ivoire has increased by 25 per cent over the last six months.

5. **Continued Problems at the University**

- http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14795:education-nationale-et-enseignement-superieur-les-etudiants-de-l-universite-houphouet-boigny-deloges-hier&catid=10:societe&Itemid=112
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/489091.html>
- http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14782:exclusion-d-etudiants-suite-aux-violences-les-etudiants-mettent-en-garde-aucun-etudiant-ne-sera-exclu&catid=10:societe&Itemid=112
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1670>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/96650/cote-divoire-nouveaux-affrontements-violents-etudiants-policiers-abidjan-3>
- <http://news.educarriere.ci/news-8557-universite-felix-houphouet-boigny-de-cocody-hier-violent-affrontement-entre-etudiants-et-police-universitaire-plusieurs-blesses-dont-des-cas-graves.html>
- http://www.informateur.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3049:suspension-des-cours-dans-les-universites-ivoiriennes-apres-de-violents-heurts&catid=41:societe-et-economie&Itemid=120

Several Newspapers note that courses remain closed at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny. **Le Patriote (p.11)** reported that students demonstrated in front of the University President's office against the recent actions of the university police. **Le Patriote** describes recent protests against the establishment of a Student Council as a pretext for FESCI (a student union) to re-establish its control of the university. The same paper questions the silence of university authorities about the matter, but reports a communiqué from Minister of Higher Education Baongo that those individuals from the university police responsible for violence will be punished.

Nord Sud (p.8) reports that Wattao, patron of the Command Center of Operational Decisions (CCDO) – which had assisted in maintaining order on campus last Monday – visited the university and encouraged students demonstrating to remain calm. **Nord Sud** also quotes the spokesperson of the university police saying that the university police could not be withdrawn because their absence would lead to violence between rival student unions. He further accused FESCI of having pillaged the offices of the university police last Friday.

Soir Info (p.7) notes that university students conducted demonstrations that closed several high schools in Yopougon in protest of the situation at the university. **Nouveau Reveil (p.8)** carries a press release from a teacher's union (CNEC) blaming the university police for recent violence both at the University FHB and at ENS and calling for a teachers' strike. CNEC further calls upon the University Presidency to clarify its position regarding the presence of university police on campus. **Notre Voie (p.10)** reports that there was also a separate demonstration organized in front of the University Hospital (CHU) and that neither students nor faculty were present at the University Abobo Adjame. **Le Temps (p.8)** describes the university police as "a militia, former elements of the FRCI, and hooligans from Koumassi" and quotes them as threatening members of FESCI: "You have demonstrated against the decision to dissolve FESCI and forced Minister Baongo to retract that decision. You will pay the price for having humiliated the Minister."

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Olmix to expand activities in Ivory Coast](#)

[Liberia Orders Investigation into Alleged Forced Repatriation](#)
[DekelOil says leading Africa fund anchors premium priced placing](#)
[UN, African Ambassadors In Cote d'Ivoire Seek Mutual Cooperation](#)
[Urgent electoral reforms needed ahead of polls in Côte d'Ivoire – UN expert](#)
[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo
6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 24, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. U.S. lifts travelling warning for Cote d'Ivoire
2. The King of Morocco Mohammed VI arrives in Abidjan
3. Opposition FPI party rounds off congress with mammoth rally
4. Ruling RHDP ally MFA to canvass for President Ouattara's candidature in 2015
5. Six reported killed as gunmen attack village in western Cote d'Ivoire
6. West African ministers meeting in Abidjan on community development

1. U.S. lifts travelling warning for Cote d'Ivoire

http://www.imatin.net/article/securite/indice-de-securite-les-etats-unis-ont-retire-la-cote-d-ivoire-de-la-liste-rouge_17003_1393079803.html

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488837.html>

http://www.lepatriote.net/actualite_det.php?id=2173

<http://abidjan911.com/actualite/nationale/Cohesion-sociale-Terrence-McCulley-la-politique-de-division-et-les-discours-inflammatoires-n-ont-pas-leur-place.php>

<http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1691>

On Saturday, several papers reported the lifting of the Department of State's Travel Warning for Cote d'Ivoire. **Fraternité Matin (p.7)** notes that governmental efforts have permitted Cote d'Ivoire to return to a stable security situation, and that the USG had strongly warned against travel to Cote d'Ivoire when Gbagbo was President. **Le Patriote (p. 3)**, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 9)**, and **L'Expression (p. 4)** all feature the story on the front page and all link the decision to the policies of President Ouattara and Minister of Interior Bakayoko.

2. The King of Morocco Mohammed VI arrives in Abidjan

<http://www.fratmat.info/flashinfos/item/13165-le-roi-du-maroc-sa-majest%C3%A9-mohammed-iv-est-arriv%C3%A9-%C3%A0-abidjan-ce-dimanchenews.abidjan.net/h/488905.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488927.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488908.html>

http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14780:en-visite-d-amitie-et-de-travail-en-cote-d-ivoire-le-roi-du-maroc-accueilli-dans-une-liesse-populaire-hier&catid=7:monde&Itemid=109

<http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1786>

The visit of King Mohammed VI of Morocco to Côte d'Ivoire makes prominent headlines in the press today. According to **Fraternité Matin (p. 6)** The King arrived yesterday in Abidjan from Bamako, Mali as part of a tour in the West African region. The report also says that the King was met by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan.

A report in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p.2)** says Mohammed VI is travelling with more than 100 Moroccan businessmen and will be visiting Moroccan companies established in Côte d'Ivoire. The paper also reports that during his three-day visit, the King will launch a 7,500-house project in the district of Abidjan.

According to **Le Patriote (p. 2)**, Mohammed VI will be attending an Ivoirian-Moroccan economic forum due to open today in Abidjan. The forum, the report says, will focus on many economic issues including transport, tourism, infrastructure and telecommunications.

3. Opposition FPI party rounds off congress with mammoth rally

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13173-cl%C3%B4ture-de-la-convention-du-fpi-affi-n%E2%80%99quessan-invite-les-militants-%C3%A0-la-discipline>
<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20140223-cote-ivoire-le-fpi-meeting-yopougon/>
<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488934.html>
<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13183-meeting-du-fpi-affi-n%E2%80%99quessan-appelle-au-rassemblement-autour-de-la-r%C3%A9publique>
http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14774:fin-de-convention-du-fpi-affi-n-quessan-plus-que-jamais-confiant-pour-la-reprise-du-pouvoir-d-etat&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110
<http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=1775>

Ivoirian opposition leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan vowed to fight against "all those who constitute a stumbling block on the way to reconciliation," reports **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5)**. According to the paper, Affi N'Guessan was singing the song of reconciliation yesterday at a rally organized in the pro-opposition Yopougon neighborhood to round off the party's 8th extraordinary congress. During the congress, which was held Friday and Saturday in Abidjan, the former ruling FPI party again called for the release of the former president Laurent Gbagbo, reports the paper. "There is a time to fight a war and there is a time to make peace," the paper quotes the opposition leader as saying. "The time for reconciliation is now," Affi N'Guessan said. Speaking about President Alassane Ouattara, who is recovering after surgery in Paris, the opposition leader told his supporters that, "I pray for the Head of State to recover and come back to join the reconciliation process."

In another development, **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)** reports that the opposition FPI party has demanded the UN to lift sanctions on some of its key members. The paper reports Affi N'Guessan as saying that despite "the sanctions, we are working for reconciliation and peace" before asking the UN to consider these sanctions in view of the efforts being made by his party.

A prominent report in pro-opposition **Notre Voie (p. 2&6)** describes Sunday's meeting held by the FPI party as a "demonstration of force." The paper also reports Affi N'Guessan as saying that the party will defeat "dictatorship" in Côte d'Ivoire. "We will take to the streets," **Le Temps (p. 3)** quotes the opposition leader as telling supporters at the gathering

4. Ruling RHDP ally MFA to canvass for President Ouattara's candidature in 2015

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13161-congr%C3%A8s-mfa-anaky-kobena-r%C3%A9affirmation-appartenance-au-rhdp>
<http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/96714/cote-divoire-la-ville-de-grabo-dans-louest-ivoirien-attaquee-assiegee-ce-dimanche>
<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488901.html>
<http://koaci.com/articles-90039>

Several papers reported on the Congress of the Movement of Forces of the Future (MFA) party which reelected Anaky Kobena as their leader. **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)** notes that Anaky Kobena called for RHDP unity in support of Ouattara's reelection as President. **L'Inter (p. 4)** notes that while Anaky Kobena reiterated his support for the RHDP coalition, he also hinted that the political alliance ought to divide power more equitably. The same paper also noted the strong welcome that the FPI delegation received at the congress.

5. Six reported killed as gunmen attack village in western Cote d'Ivoire

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488903.html>
<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488904.html>
<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488901.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13177-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-apr%C3%A8s-l%E2%80%99attaque-de-la-ville-de-grabo-le-calme-est-revenu>
http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14778:la-ville-de-grabo-attaquee-hier-4-elements-frci-tues-1-blesse-1-assaillant-tue-et-4-autres-arretes&catid=13:faits-et-mefaits&Itemid=115

Several newspapers carry reports of an attack near Grabo on the Liberian border. **Le Jour Plus (p. 2)** reports that the attackers were Liberian mercenaries seeking food and money who were forced back by the FRCI. **L'Inter (p. 3)** reports that the attack, which resulted in several casualties on both sides and arrests, began about four in the morning and was pushed back by eleven after addition FRCI from Tabou and ONUCI troops arrived to support the FRCI unit at the border. **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** notes a series of suspicious aspects to the attack and speculates that it may have represented a potential coup d'Etat.

6. West African ministers meeting in Abidjan on community development

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488592.html>

Ministers from West African countries are meeting this week in Abidjan to work on a community development plan, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**. The plan, according to the paper, includes projects designed to foster regional integration that will be later submitted to heads of state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for adoption.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[The Heavy Lifting To Save Ivory Coast's Endangered Elephants](#)

[Gimme a Break: Ivorian Cocoa's Got 99 Problems, But the Kids Ain't One](#)

[Ivory Coast to produce 21,000 tons of bananas annually](#)

[Turkish firm invests in Ivorian urban water transport](#)

[Suspected Liberian gunmen attack Ivorian border town](#)

[Ecom Suspended by Ivorian Cocoa-Coffee Regulator From Auctions](#)

[Etisalat empowers women in Cote d'ivoire](#)

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 21, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Government spokesperson Bruno Kone says President Ouattara is doing well
2. Despite mutual recrimination among allies, PDCI official Maurice Guikahue says the ruling RHDP can still find common ground
3. Score students injured after a clash with the university police
4. UN human right expert Doudou Diene meets former Ivoirian first lady, calls on Ivoirian authorities to expedite her trial

1. **Government spokesperson Bruno Kone says President Ouattara is doing well**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488729.html>

Fraternité Matin (p.8) cites government press spokesperson Bruno Kone describing President Ouattara as doing well. **Le Patriote (p.2)** quotes Kone as noting that Madame Ouattara has returned to Côte d'Ivoire and indicating that her husband is expected back soon. **Notre Voie (p.3)**, on the other hand quotes an "inside source" that Ouattara may need to go to the U.S. for rehabilitation.

2. **Despite mutual recrimination among allies, PDCI official Maurice Guikahue says the ruling RHDP can still find common ground**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488754.html>

Le Nouveau Réveil devotes most of the paper to an press conference by PDCI Executive Secretary Maurice Kakou Guikahué about RDR-PDCI dynamics. "It was not the RDR that brought Ouattara to victory in 2010," said Guikahué in calling for the level of collaboration that was found during the post-electoral crisis. **L'Inter (p.2)** headlined that the RHDP coalition is not functioning well. **Le Temps (p.5)** focuses on Guikahué telling FPI supporters "to have faith in Gbagbo's liberation, because in justice, one is either condemned or freed."

3. **Score students injured after a clash with the university police**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488751.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488712.html>

Students were injured in clashes near the university yesterday. Several newspapers describe the conflict as arising after a university police officer slapped a female student for disregarding his instructions. **Soir Info (p.8)** and **Notre Voie (p.8)** both report that the university police then sought out students in classrooms of the medical faculty (near the university hospital). **L'Inter (p.12)** on the other hand describes the police action as taking place near the bus stop in front of the university hospital and in reaction to attempts by the FESCI student union to organize a demonstration.

4. **UN human right expert Doudou Diene meets former Ivoirian first lady, calls on Ivoirian authorities to expedite her trial**

<http://presse.ivorien.net/informations/?p=7873>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488693.html>

Soir Info (p. 4) and **L'Inter (p. 3)** After meeting with Simone Gbagbo at her place of detention in Odienne, UN Human Rights Expert Doudou Diene spoke with ONUCI radio. Diene described the former First Lady as being in good spirits and called on the authorities bring her to trial soon in a medically secure manner. Diene also called on Ivoirian authorities to try or liberate those still detained and those provisionally released.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[High risk of malaria concentrated in 10 African countries](#)

[Website tracks deforestation in near real-time](#)

[Liberia: Three Humanitarian Groups Launched Cross-Border Report](#)

[Ivorian Cocoa Crop Seen by Ecobank Rising to Highest in 3 Year](#)

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo
6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 20, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Ruling RHDP coalition announces amendment of Article 35 of Ivoirian Constitution
2. Charles Konan Banny speaks about reconciliation and reform of the army
3. Opposition leader presses the government to communicate more on President Ouattara's health conditions
4. Population census to begin in March

1. Ruling RHDP coalition announces amendment of Article 35 of Ivoirian Constitution

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488645.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488659.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488632.html>

Representatives of the RHDP coalition met yesterday. At the conclusion, former Prime Minister Kouadio Ahoussou Jeannot summarized both the accomplishments to date of the coalition and its priorities for the coming year. *Le Patriote (p.5)* focuses on the successful dialogue with the opposition which had permitted the provisional release of prisoners (including FPI President Pascal Affi N'Guessan), the unfreezing of assets, and the return of illegally occupied property. Several papers focused on the plans to reform Article 35 of the Ivoirian constitution. *Fraternité Matin (p. 9)* describes this in a technocratic manner as bringing the constitution in line with the Linas Marcoussis Accords. *L'Inter (p. 4)* more clearly states that this addresses the issue of nationality of presidential candidates. The RHDP also proposes to reform the Independent Electoral Commission, to conduct a census, and to prepare for the 2015 elections.

2. Charles Konan Banny speaks about reconciliation and reform of the army

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488625.html>

Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) President Charles Konan Banny held a working meeting with representatives of local CDVR commissions and civil society to announce that after having researched the causes of the Ivoirian crisis, the time to hear the victims has arrived. Banny clarified that it would be possible to determine who is a victim, but that it is not the role of the CDVR to condemn. *Notre Voie (p.4)* focuses on the results of a survey discussed at the working session – especially the fact that 72% of respondents support reform of the army and 77% support reform of the justice sector. *Le Jour Plus (p.4)* carried a separate story that the UN Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations announced that he was satisfied with the CDVR's work.

3. Opposition leader presses the government to communicate more on President Ouattara's health conditions

Ivoirian opposition leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who has been organizing a series of rallies in the district of Abidjan to mobilize FPI supporters yesterday called on the government "to tell the truth about the health conditions of President Alassane Ouattara," reports *L'Inter (p. 2)*. Speaking at a meeting in Cocody, Affi N'Guessan said: "The government must reassure and tell us the truth about the health of the President of the Republic." He also said: "If the president is sick and therefore unable to rule the country, they should tell us because not doing so could lead to rumors." With more on the health of the president, the paper quotes a source as saying, "The president is doing well" after his operation to alleviate pain from sciatica.

On reconciliation, which is one of the major topics of Affi N'Guessan's rallies, the opposition leader urged Ivoirians to consider the reconciliation as their "main obligation," the paper says. However, he believes that maintaining former president Laurent Gbagbo in jail could impede efforts achieve "true reconciliation" in Cote d'Ivoire.

4. Population census to begin in March

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488609.html>

Aujourd'hui (p. 4) today announces that the population census, which was initially scheduled for November 2013, will finally start on March 10 and end on April 9 this year. According to the paper, the announcement was made yesterday by the head of the communication and campaign department of the census office, Serikpa Gnadjia, who indicated that the operation will take more than one month. The paper also reports Gnadjia as saying that about 23,000 agents have been trained by the census office.

According to **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)**, the census will cost about US \$24 million; and the government of Cote d'Ivoire will be providing more than the half of this amount.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Gasol loses Ivory Coast block race](#)

Upstream Online-Feb 19, 2014

Enerci is joined by Foxtrot International, Saur Energie Cote d'Ivoire and Petroci at Block CI-27, which holds the Foxtrot, Mahi, Manta and Marlin ...

[Gasol Announces Termination Of Major Ivory Coast Deal](#)

London South East-21 hours ago

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 19, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Debate over lawmakers' demand for presidential signature on bills
2. Under U.S. pressure, head of electoral commission to quit post, reports a paper
3. UN Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations operations peacekeeping Edmond Mulet meets with Ivoirian Prime Minister
4. Ivoirian government to provide a US \$14 million-subsidies to cotton producers
5. Ivoirian and Ghanaian joint commission starts work on border demarcation
6. Communication Minister Bamba-Lamine visits pro-opposition dailies

1. Debate over lawmakers' demand for presidential signature on bills continues

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/13006-assemblée-nationale-la-signature-du-chef-de-l'état-exigée-sur-les-projets-de-lois>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488563.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488543.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488542.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488540.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488520.html>

A demand from an Ivoirian lawmaker during a session of the Ivoirian National Assembly on Monday seeking President Alassane Ouattara's signature on bills before debate has sparked controversy in the press today. A prominent article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** describes the move as of "no significance". The paper quotes a source as questioning the rationale behind this demand, wondering, "How can you ask the President of the Republic to sign a bill that is not yet adopted?" The source, the paper reveals, also explained that the President of the Republic only signs a bill after its adoption by the National Assembly. "Even when laws are officially published in the gazette, there is no signature," the source claimed.

Explaining the reason behind his demand, PDCI-RDA Member of Parliament Karamo Kouassi said, "Asking for a temporarily replacement when the president is absent is not a power vacuum," reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)**. The paper, which is close to the PDCI-RDA party of former president Henri Konan Bedie, who is also a strong ally of President Ouattara, carries a commentary (**p. 4**) suggesting that it is "indecent and inhuman" to talk about the succession of President Ouattara when the latter is recovering in France after an operation to alleviate pain from sciatica.

Le Patriote (p.p. 2&3) a daily close to President Ouattara's RDR party also joins the debate questioning the alliance between Bedie's PDCI-RDA and Ouattara. "Is PDCI-RDA an ally of the RDR or a vulture?" asks the paper which comments that the debate over the signature of the bills was "immoral and indecent."

2. Under U.S. pressure, head of electoral commission to quit post, reports a paper

Le Mandat (p. 4) drawing heavily on a story from **la Lettre du continent** predicts that under pressure from the USG, the Independent Electoral Commission will be reformed and that Youssouf Bakayoko will be replaced at its head. **Le Mandat** adds the names of Koné Sourou and Bamba Yacouba to that suggested by **la Lettre du continent**, Bamba Cheick Daniel, as possible successors.

3. UN Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations operations peacekeeping Edmond Mulet meets with Ivoirian Prime Minister

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12980-côte-d'ivoire-''la-situation-s'améliore-énormément''-affirme-une-mission-de-lonu>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488556.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488525.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488484.html>

Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary General for UN Peacekeeping Operations, is leading a delegation visiting Côte d'Ivoire since Sunday. On Monday they met with Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko, Foreign Minister Charles Koffi Diby, and FPI President Pascal Affi N'Guessan. Yesterday they met with Minister for Defense Paul Koffi Koffi and Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. In public remarks he congratulated the country's leaders for the progress made and called on all political and social leaders to continue to work for elections that are credible, legitimate and open to all.

4. Ivoirian government to provide a US \$14 million-subsidy to cotton producers

The government of Cote d'Ivoire is to provide a US \$14 million-subsidy to local cotton producers in order to enable them to increase cotton productivity and improve their living conditions, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 18)**. The grant will help acquire fertilizer and reduce production expenses. **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 6)** quotes the president of the cotton producers association in Cote d'Ivoire, Lancina Tuo, as saying that the subsidies cover the period from 2013 to 2014 and will help reduce the cost of cotton production by 19.25 percent.

5. Ivoirian and Ghanaian joint commission starts work on border demarcation

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488549.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)** says Ghanaian officials and their Ivorian counterparts are meeting this week in Abidjan to start negotiations on delimiting the maritime borders of the two countries. According to the paper, the area in dispute is the oil and gas-rich maritime region off the west coast of Ghana and to the east of the Ivorian border. Since 2010, both countries are claiming ownership of the territory, which energy experts say holds an estimated two billion barrels of oil reserves and 1.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

6. Communication Minister Bamba-Lamine visits pro-opposition dailies

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488554.html>

Several newspapers including **Notre Voie (p. 9)**, **Fraternite Matin (p. 17)**, **Le Patriote (p.7)** today report on a visit yesterday by the Minister of Communication Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine to *Notre Voie*, *Le Temps* and *LG Infos*, three dailies close to the opposition FPI party. A report in *Notre Voie* quotes the minister as saying, "The government is taking seriously the concerns of the journalists." Speaking about these preoccupations, **Notre Voie's** publisher Cesar Etou complained that pro-government media outlets are benefiting from government subsidies while pro-opposition dailies are working in difficult conditions.

"We want journalists to help reconcile Ivoirians," **Le Patriote** quotes the minister as saying, while a report in *Fraternite Matin* says Bamba-Lamine urged the journalists to be more professional.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[UN protest at Liberia-Ivory Coast 'forced extraditions'](#)

[UN says Liberia sent refugees home illegally](#)

[UPDATE - DekelOil starts production from crude palm oil mill in Ivory Coast](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire: ICI Forum - a Kick-Start for Young Ivoirian Entrepreneurs](#)

[La Campagne Tropicana Beach to replicate resort in 20 locations in Cote D' Ivoire• Leads Nigeria's team to SITA 2014](#)

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 18, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Police releases Gbagbo's son, Prosecutor imposes travel ban on him**
2. **Opposition leader abandons plan to hold rally in ruling party's stronghold**
3. **"Provisional release of people accused of crimes shouldn't lead to impunity," UN independent human rights expert says**
4. **After a sciatica surgery in Paris, President Ouattara could return home in March**
5. **African water congress opened yesterday in Abidjan**
6. **Abidjan's third bridge across the lagoon to be completed by December**
7. **Ivoirian government announces increase of the price of cashew nuts**
8. **Minister denies banning students unions**
9. **Ivoirian journalism network entangled in power struggle**

1. Police releases Gbagbo's son, Prosecutor imposes travel ban on him

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12966-justice-michel-gbagbo-entendu-puis-libéré-ce-lundi>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488466.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488481.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** says Michel Gbagbo, the son of the former president Laurent Gbagbo, who was arrested on Friday at the airport in Abidjan while attempting to leave the country on a flight to Paris has been released. According to the paper, Michel was set free yesterday after an interrogation by the state prosecutor. The report also says that the prosecutor has also imposed a travel ban on Michel Gbagbo. A report in pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 4)** quotes Michel's attorney Ange Rodrigue Dadjé as saying that "no charges have been filed against him."

2. Opposition leader abandons plan to hold rally in ruling party's stronghold

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488433.html>

During a Saturday rally in Marcory, FPI President Pascal Affi N'Guessan announced that he was canceling his Sunday rally in Abobo in response to a request from the Mayor of Abobo for security reasons. (*Fraternité Matin* pg 7) *Nord Sud* carries a headline quoting Mayor Adama Toungara "Affi could come to Abobo." However the page three story clarifies that such a visit should be at the will of the local population: "We invite all our brothers to visit at a time chosen by the inhabitants of Abobo."

3. "Provisional release of people accused of crimes shouldn't lead to impunity," UN independent human rights expert says

UN Independent Expert on Human Rights Doudou Diene, who participated last week in a conference on the situation of the victims of the Ivoirian crisis, said, "The provisional release of people accused of crimes should not lead to impunity," reports **Fraternité Matin (p. 6)**. According to the paper, Diene said this yesterday after meeting with Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. The paper also reports the human rights expert as saying that the meeting was to emphasize "The central role of justice in the reconciliation process." "Total and general impunity is a breach of international law," Diene said. He also recommended that "the cases of people released on bail should be resolved" before the 2015 presidential elections.

4. After a sciatica surgery in Paris, President Ouattara could return home in March

[http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12942-santé-du-président-ouattara-hollande-`s'est-entretenu"-avec-le-chef-de-l'état-ivoirien](http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12942-santé-du-président-ouattara-hollande-`s'est-entretenu)

According to an article in pro-government newspaper, **Le Patriote (p. 6)**, President Alassane Ouattara who is recovering in France after an operation to alleviate pain from sciatica, is expected to return home in March. The paper, which attributes this information to Paris-based international magazine **Jeune Afrique**, claims that President Ouattara is doing well.

A report in **Soir Info (p. 3)** also quotes Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara commenting on the health conditions of her husband on her facebook page. "My husband is doing better and has started walking," the first lady is reported as saying.

Meanwhile, several newspapers report today that Ivoirian lawmakers meeting yesterday at an extraordinary session demanded that the bills submitted by the government should be signed by President Ouattara. "The President of the Republic can, by decree, delegate some of his powers to members of the government," **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2)** quotes Kramo Kouassi a member of the National Assembly as saying in reference to Article 53 of the Ivoirian Constitution.

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)** also says the demand by some lawmakers for the application of Article 53 of the Ivoirian Constitution nearly paralyzed debate at the National Assembly yesterday. The paper, however, reports that the difference over the application of Article 53 was resolved after consultation between different parliamentary groups attending the session.

5. African water congress opened yesterday in Abidjan

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12971-eau-et-assainissement-en-afrique-70-des-maladies-liées-à-leur-mauvaise-gestion>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488438.html>

Several newspapers – **Fraternité Matin (pp. 4&5)**, **Soir Info (p. 8)**, **L'Inter (p. 11)**, **Notre Voie (p. 9)** – today report on the 17th Congress on Water that opened yesterday in Abidjan. According to the reports, the four-day conference has brought together members of the African Water Association (AfWA) from more than 40 countries and experts from across the world. **Fraternité Matin (p. 5)** reports U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley as saying at the opening ceremony that "Cote d'Ivoire is back." The paper also quotes AfWA secretary general Sylvain Usher as saying, "Only 4 percent of the 5,400 billion of m³ of water available in African is utilized."

6. Abidjan's third bridge across the lagoon to be completed by December

Dailies today report that a third bridge crossing the lagoon in Abidjan will be completed by December. According to a report in **Fraternité Matin (p. 17)**, government officials including Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said the work is running on schedule after a visit to the project last week. The 1.5km bridge, linked to a new six-lane motorway, will be the first major infrastructure project completed in the city since the 2002 to 2004 civil war dragged the country into a decade of turmoil.

7. Ivoirian government announces increase in the price of cashew nuts

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488472.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12976-anacarde-les-paysans-obtiennent-un-prix-plancher-de-225-fcfa-le-kilo>

Reports in **Fraternité Matin (p. 17)**, **Le Patriote (p. 12)** and **L'Inter (p. 10)** today say the Ivoirian government has announced a new price for cashew nuts. According to these reports the new price is FCFA 250 (about US \$0.5) per kilogram against FCFA 200 (US \$0.4) last year.

8. Minister denies banning students unions

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488439.html>

The Minister of High Education Bacongo Cisse has denied reports that Ivoirian students unions have been dissolved, reports **Fraternité Matin (p. 10)**. The paper carries a statement issued by the

minister “ensuring the students associations and the public opinion that the government will continue to work for the improvement of conditions of the students in the universities.” The rumors on the dissolution of students associations started last week after an official of the Ministry of Higher Education announced the creation of elected university student councils – modeled after the system of student government common in the U.S., Canada, and France. Several newspapers reported that student demonstrations protesting the establishment of student councils occurred at the flagship university in Cocody on Monday. According to **Soir Info (p. 10)** they “paralyzed” the university. **Le Patriote (p. 11)** quotes one of the leaders of FESCI (a student union) as saying that the Minister should not interfere with the organization of student associations in an article titled “FESCI refuses to die.”

9. Ivorian journalism network entangled in power struggle

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488456.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12965-unjci-habiba-dembélé-invite-au-respect-des-textes-de-l'union>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)** says a difference is opposing the board of governors and the members of the executive committee of the Cote d'Ivoire's National Union of journalists (UNJCI). According to the paper, the board is demanding new elections following the resignation of the president of the association amid allegations of corruption. But the executive members of UNJCI led by TV anchor Habiba Dembele rejected the demand on the grounds that “An individual mistake should not be linked to the association.”

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[New Ivory Coast bridge ready by December, could boost growth - Bouygues](#)

[Ivory Coast mid-crop seen on par with last season, exporters say](#)

[Dry conditions weakens Ivorian cocoa mid-crop](#)

[Iran, Ivory Coast Vow to Consolidate Ties](#)

[Liberia: Mercenaries' Recruiter Arrested](#)

[King Mohammed VI to pay visits to Mali, Guinea Conakry, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon](#)

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 14, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Human rights organizations call for justice for war victims_
2. Opposition leader Affi N'Guessan to launch series of rallies in Abidjan today
3. Summoned by French justice, Michel Gbagbo expected in Paris today_
4. Ivoirian Interior Minister holds talks with Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for West
5. Government to provide US \$150 million to boost agricultural sector
6. Government announces new students association_
7. Violent Demonstration at Ecole Nationale Supérieure (ENS)_

1. Human rights organizations call for justice for war victims _

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488051.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488177.html>

Several Human Rights NGOs (CI-CPI, LIDHO, MMIDH and APDH) held a press conference on Wednesday calling for justice for the victims of the post-electoral crisis. Reports in several dailies – **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**, **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)**, **Notre Voie (p. 4)** – say the NGOs noted that while the government is provisionally releasing prisoners arrested after the post-electoral crisis, it seems to have forgotten those who were victimized.

2. Opposition leader Affi N'Guessan to launch series of rallies in Abidjan today

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12811-abobo-des-jeunes-s'opposent-à-la-tenue-du-meeting-d'affi-n'guessan>

Notre Voie (p. 3) announces that Pascal Affi N'Guessan, the leader of the opposition FPI party, is beginning his series of Abidjan mobilization rallies today in Koumassi. This will be followed by rallies in Abobo on Sunday and in Anyama next Wednesday. **L'Intelligent (p. 6)** notes the possibility of a confrontation in Abobo. The paper recalls that a month ago, Abobo Mayor Adama Toungara publicly declared that "unless he changes his manner of speaking, Affi N'Guessan will not set foot in Abobo." The paper also asks Kone Boubakar, FPI's National Secretary for the Organization of Rallies, about Thursday's anti-Affi demonstration; he responded that both sides had the right to demonstrate.

3. Summoned by French justice, Michel Gbagbo expected in Paris today

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488197.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488148.html>

L'Inter (p. 2) reports that Michel Gbagbo, the son of the former president Laurent Gbagbo, is expected in Paris, France to respond to a subpoena issued by a French judge following his complaint for "kidnapping, sequestration, inhuman and humiliating treatments," during his arrest on April 11, 2011 in Abidjan by forces loyal to President Alassane Ouattara. The paper however casts doubt about Michel's chance to leave Abidjan today since he was released on bail in August 2013 along with other key leaders of the former ruling FPI party. "He has to appear before the judge on Monday, February 17 and the plan is that he leaves Abidjan on Friday, February 14," the paper quotes Michel's Attorney Rodrigue Dadjé as saying.

4. Ivoirian Interior Minister holds talks with Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for West

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488192.html>

The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for West Africa, Said Djinnit yesterday met with Ivoirian Interior and Security Minister Hamed Bakayoko reports **Le Patriote (p. 4)**. The paper also reports the UN envoy as saying that the situation in Cote d'Ivoire has improved significantly and the country is steadily regaining its position as the engine of the West-African region. Djinnit also told reporters that the discussion with the minister focused on security in the sub-region especially in Cote d'Ivoire and the mission of the UN is "to ensure that peace prevails in the sub-region." According to the paper, Bakayoko also met yesterday with Claude Gueant former French minister of interior.

5. Government to provide US \$150 million to boost agricultural sector _

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488184.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488152.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488129.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12838-filières-agricoles-75-milliards-pour-accroître-la-productivité-de-120-000-paysans>

Ivoirian Minister of Agriculture Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly yesterday approved the PSAC, a project designed to provide substantial assistance to local organizations in order to improve the revenues of producers of cocoa rubber, palm oil cotton and cashew in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **L'Inter (p. 11)**.

According to the minister, the US \$150 million-project will also help revamp the country's agriculture sector. The project, the minister reportedly said, will have positive impacts on nearly 120,000 beneficiaries and help rehabilitate more than 5,000 km of roads in rural communities.

6. Government announces new students association

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488201.html>

The Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Higher Education announced the creation of elected university student councils – modeled after the system of student government common in the U.S., Canada, and France. According to **L'Inter (p. 13)**, this is an attempt to minimize the role of student unions.

7. Violent Demonstration at Ecole Nationale Supérieure (ENS)

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488185.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488168.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488130.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488114.html>

Several newspapers reported that a group of violent demonstrators pillaged the administrative offices of ENS demanding reimbursement for fees paid to ENS to take the entry exam – since those fees are being collected by another organization. According to the reports, there has been an ongoing conflict between the DG of ENS and the Ministry over the administration of the exam. However, several newspapers question the identity of the demonstrators. **Le Patriote (p. 7)** quotes an ENS official saying that although the fee structure was published, fees were never collected because of the dispute over administration. **L'Intelligent (p. 2)** quotes ENS officials claim that the demonstrators were not students. On its side, **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 6)** quotes several ENS employees claiming that the demonstrators included plain clothes university police. **Notre Voie (p. 6)** simply describes the demonstrators as partisans of Minister of Higher Education Cisse Baongo.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/ivory-coast-adviser-tells-class-about-life-in-africa-1.1633871>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/13/ivorycoast-inflation-idUSL5N0LI2MC20140213>

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/128826/presidents-health-raises-fears-in-ivory-coast>

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 13, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. "Victims should be priority for peace and reconciliation process," UN rights expert says
2. Pro-government Youth Threaten Opposition Leader
3. Armed men ambush UN team
4. Former DG of the National Police School sentenced to two years in jail for embezzlement
5. Turkish group to invest US \$ 3 million in Cote d'Ivoire
6. National Press Council turns down appeals against suspension for corruption by two journalists

1. "Victims should be priority for peace and reconciliation process," UN rights expert says

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488051.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488022.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12791-aïchatou-mindaoudou-la-situation-des-victimes-doit-être-au-cœur-de-la-justice>

UN Independent Expert on Human Rights Doudou Diene spoke yesterday at the opening of a three day conference on the situation of the victims of the Ivoirian crisis, reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**. He described Cote d'Ivoire as being at a crossroads and called for programs to promote reconciliation in a global and durable manner. UN Special Representative Aïchatou Mindaoudou added that "durable peace and reconciliation are not possible unless victims, in their entirety, are placed at the center of our concerns." From the audience Pascal Affi N'Guessan of the FPI decried the lack of political will and vision of the political deciders says a report in **L'Inter (p. 4)**.

2. Pro-government youth Threatens opposition leader

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488087.html>

Several newspapers carry reports of youth organizations rallying to oppose Affi N'Guessan's proposed rally on Sunday in Abobo. **Le Patriote(p. 4)** cites Traore Youssouf of the Union of Autonomous Youth of Cote d'Ivoire pointed out that Affi was only released provisionally and that in Abobo the wounds of the crisis have not yet healed. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)** is more explicit, quoting Traore Youssouf as pointing out that "our brothers are still armed," and quoting Oumar Sidibe of the Union of Youth of Abobo: "if Affi doesn't want blood to flow, he will not come to Abobo." **Le Temps (p. 3)** repeats an earlier quote of Abobo Mayor Adama Toungara that "Abobo is off limits to Affi N'Guessan" and uses it to compare Toungara to a "Com-zone in a tie" who still takes the attitude of a rebel.

3. Armed men ambush UN team

A dozen heavily armed men ambushed a clearly marked UN vehicle on the Bouafle – Yamoussoukro road, reports **Soir Info (p. 3)**. The attack took place about noon on Wednesday when the vehicle had slowed down to navigate the potholed road. Two UN civilians were robbed of their possessions, including \$10,000. A week earlier, armed men fired on a private vehicle in the same vicinity, killing the driver.

4. Former DG of the National Police School sentenced to two years in jail for embezzlement

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488066.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488068.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488058.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** says Atsain Viviane, Director General of the National Police School between 2006 and 2010 was sentenced to two years in prison for the misappropriation of 200 million CFA during the post-electoral crisis. According to **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2)**, the first woman to hold that position was found innocent of other charges against her and will remain in prison another two months, having been in detention since April 2012.

5. Turkish group to invest US \$ 3 million in Cote d'Ivoire _

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488034.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/488083.html>

Yildirim Holding, a diversified Turkish company, has announced its intention to invest 1.5 billion CFA (about US \$ 3 million) for projects with local partner SNEDAI Group, reports **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)**. After meetings at several ministries, Snedai DG (and former Minister) Adama Bictogo took the group to meet with Prime Minister Duncan. The focus of the investment will be on the development of a ferry system, including the purchase of boats and development of piers.

6. National Press Council turns down appeals against suspension for corruption by two journalists

The National Press Council (CNP), a state-run print media regulatory body, has turned down appeals filed by two prominent Ivoirian journalists who were suspended on corruption charges, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**. The two journalists – Traore Moussa, then head of Cote d'Ivoire Journalists Network (UNJCI) and Alafe Wakili, publisher of the independent *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* – were suspended a few weeks ago after Tiemoko Assale, the publisher of the independent satire newspaper, *L'Elephant Dechaine*, accused them of trying to offer him money in order to stop criticizing Ivoirian Minister in Charge of Economy Niale Kaba. The two journalists denied the allegation. But in a statement on Monday, the CNP indicated that the appeals did not contain any evidence that would compel the body to reverse its decision.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=300465>

<http://nationalmirroronline.net/new/75000-children-die-annually-in-cote-divoire-unicef/>

<http://theabingtonjournal.com/news/local-news/1190323/Connecting-the-Ivory-Coast-with-Luzerne-County>

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

L'Expression _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

Fraternite Matin

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

February 12, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Search for Common Ground trains Ivoirian political leaders on social cohesion
2. UN independent human rights expert to make recommendations on way to end impunity in Cote d'Ivoire
3. **Reactions of traditional hunters after head of CDVR calls for their disarmament**

1. Search for Common Ground trains Ivoirian political leaders on social cohesion

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486986.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12763-cohesion-sociale-des-partis-politiques-formés-par-long-search-for-common-ground>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486976.html>

Search for Common Ground (SFCG), an international organization, yesterday trained key Ivoirian political leaders, including opposition FPI's leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan, on their role in reinforcing social cohesion in Cote d'Ivoire. Ambassador Terence McCulley and Ivoirian Minister of Family, Solidarity, Woman and Child, Anne Desire Ouloto, spoke at the opening ceremony. Ambassador McCulley's recommendations on how to reinforce social cohesion and democracy in Cote d'Ivoire after the recent political crisis are prominently reported on by many print media today.

"Divisive politics and inflammatory rhetoric have no place in this process," write **Le Patriote (p. 2)**, **Le Mandat (p. 5)**, **Notre Voie (p. 4)**, and **Soir Info (p. 5)** quoting the Ambassador. The dailies also report Ambassador McCulley as saying, "The progress that has been made since the end of the post-electoral crisis is remarkable."

According to **L'Inter (p. 3)**, the workshop was an opportunity for Ambassador McCulley to urge Ivoirian political stakeholders to move from words to actions. The paper notes that this is second time after his recent speech before the students at Felix Houphouet Boigny University that Ambassador McCulley was telling Ivoirian political leaders "the truth." The paper, which welcomes the Ambassador's recommendations, however indicates that these recommendations would remain "a mere good intention" unless the Ambassador uses appropriate measures to make reconciliation move forward.

According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)**, Minister of Family, Solidarity, Woman and Child, Anne Desire Ouloto, deplored the absence of representatives of President Alassane Ouattara's ruling RDR party at the workshop. The minister also called on Cote d'Ivoire's key political stakeholders "to learn the lesson from the recent crisis," because "the country needs responsible leaders to educate and train the population at the grassroots."

"We are ready to participate in these discussions," **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** reports FPI's vice-president Sebastien Danon Djedje as saying; "We are here to find solutions through consultation," Daniel Aka Ahizi, leader of the Ivoirian Workers Party (PIT), said. The paper also reports the Representative of the African Union in Cote d'Ivoire, Ambroise Nyomsaba, who was present at the workshop, as calling on Ivoirian leaders to emulate the Burundian approach of reconciliation.

2. UN independent human rights expert to make recommendations on way to end impunity in Cote d'Ivoire

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486939.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486987.html>

The UN independent human rights expert, Doudou Diene, who is currently in Cote d'Ivoire as part of an international conference on war victims, will make recommendations on how to end grave impunity in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. According to the paper, Diene will make these recommendations after discussions with the country's authorities, civil society, political leaders and partners.

According to a report in **L'Expression (p. 3)**, Diene also commends progress made by Cote d'Ivoire in the reconciliation process. "The extension of the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the on-going political dialogue are evidence that the country is moving forward," Diene is reported as saying.

3. Reactions of traditional hunters after head of CDVR calls for their disarmament

A report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 5)** today states that Ivoirian traditional hunters, also called Dozos, have expressed indignation after Charles Konan Banny, the recently reappointed President of the Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), called for the disarmament of traditional hunters before the 2015 presidential elections. "We don't carry guns," the paper quotes Toure Moussa, the president of the Dozos as saying. Toure also indicates that Banny's declaration could lead the international community to believe that the Dozos are an impediment to reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Armed attacks at Côte d'Ivoire border raise risk of temporary frontier ...](#)

IHS Jane's 360-15 hours ago

Unidentified gunmen attacked barracks and the homes of several customs officers at an Ivorian border post in Noé in the east of the country, ...

[Statement At "Invest in Côte d'Ivoire Forum - Ici 2014" By the AfDB ...](#)

AllAfrica.com-Feb 11, 2014

Thank you, Mr. President, for having included us and for the hospitality of your Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire. I would like to take this ...

[UNICEF Says 75000 Children in Cote d'Ivoire Die Annually Before ...](#)

Daily Times Nigeria-16 hours ago

UNICEF Spokesman in Cote d'Ivoire, Loius Vigneault-Dubois told newsmen in Abidjan that the deaths were mainly due to ailments such as ...

[U.N. rights expert probes reconciliation in Ivory Coast](#)

UPI.com

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Feb. 11 (UPI) -- Doudou Diene, a Senegalese jurist working on human rights in Ivory Coast for the United Nations, said he was ...

[Ivory Coast's mobile market becomes overcrowded](#)

ITWeb Africa

The research firm has released a summary on its Ivory Coast report, which says that above African average mobile penetration in the country is set to ..

[Ghana, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea & Cote d'Ivoire agree to creation of a Sub-Regional Gas Company](#)

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation

Ghana, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire have agreed to set up a Sub-Regional Gas Company to harness the potentials and deepen ...

[CNR Secures Rig for Development Drilling Offshore Ivory Coast](#)

Rigzone

"We are investing significantly offshore Côte d'Ivoire in the coming years, so committing to a rig for the next phase of the Baobab development is very ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 11, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Organization of African traditions pledges to fight Female Genital Mutilation
2. Head of reconciliation calls for disarmament of traditional hunters
3. Debate over the health condition of President

1. Organization of African traditions pledges to fight Female Genital Mutilation

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486813.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486916.htm>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486843.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486451.html>

Imam Cissé Djiguiba organized a press conference to observe the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. The Imam is the founder of an NGO that fights against the practice, but organized the conference in his capacity of Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13). This press conference complements the series of programs that the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, and Children has been organizing in the month leading to International Women's Day. According to the paper, Imam Djiguiba also used the occasion to call on parties involved in the fight to redouble efforts. Imam Djiguiba said, "This question now is no longer to know whether it is possible to win the fight but to know when the zero tolerance to female genital mutilation will be attained."

Imam Djiguiba calls on the decision-makers to implement laws on female genital mutilation, reports *Notre Voie* (p. 6).

2. Head of reconciliation calls for disarmament of traditional hunters

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486847.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486862.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486908.html>

Several newspapers carry or report on an AFP interview with Charles Konan Banny, the recently reappointed President of the Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR). The report in *L'Inter* (p. 3) quotes Banny as saying that the "organization of peaceful 2015 elections passes through the disarmament of the Dozos," traditional hunters accused of crimes before, during, and after the post-electoral crisis. Banny wondered what would become of the country if everyone assembled tribal brotherhoods, which *Nord Sud* (p. 2) pointed out was speculation on his part. "All those who are not allowed to carry guns must depose them," *Le Jour Plus* (p. 3).

3. Debate over the health condition of President

Several newspapers speculated about the implications of the President's operation in Paris. Notre Voie (p. 2) expressed concern, noting that an operation for sciatica was a last resort – indicating that other treatment options had failed and that the situation was not as “benign” as the official press release had indicated.

Aujourd'hui (p. 6) also focused on the debilitating nature of the illness, using the opportunity to note that Ouattara is 72 years old and running for reelection and to remind readers of the uncertainty during Houphouet-Boigny's long illness in 1993.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7) acknowledges both the concerns of some and the relief of others that the press release indicates that the operation went well, while also arguing that even the President has a right to privacy.

Nord-Sud Quotidien (p.2) claims that Ouattara will maintain his active schedule and that the only visit being cancelled is one to Bondoukou from February 18-20.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201402102472.html>

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/culture-society/cocoa-farming-vs.-chimpanzees-in-ivory-coast/ivory-coast-mont-peko-park-cacao-cocoa-deforestation/c3s14778/#.UvnHcvRXDMM>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/support-from-ulker-to-cocoa-growers-in-the-ivory-coast-.aspx?pageID=449&nID=62290&NewsCatID=402>

<http://www.qbcghana.com/1.1693153>

-

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 10, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador McCulley and head of UN mission speak about 2015 elections, reconciliation, justice in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Reports say government soldiers attack customs officers at Noe border town
3. Conference on victims of recent Ivoirian crisis opens this week in Abidjan
4. Ivoirian Prime Minister meets with American businessmen
5. Official statement says President Ouattara expected home soon after successful surgery

1. Ambassador McCulley and head of UN mission speak about 2015 elections, reconciliation, justice in Cote d'Ivoire

<http://www.onuci.org/spip.php?article10540>

A report in the weekend issue of L'Expression (p. 4) said U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley and the head of the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou, met last week to discuss the general political situation in this country. The report also said that the discussions focused on the 2015 presidential elections and the on-going reconciliation process, as well as issues relating to justice. The paper also reported Ambassador McCulley as saying, "We spoke on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire and I assured her of the support of the Government of the United States."

2. Reports say government soldiers attack customs officers at Noe border town

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486747.html>

On Friday, angry soldiers attacked houses belonging to Ivoirian customs officers at Noe, a border town between Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana reported L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 8) in its weekend issue. According to the paper, the incidents stemmed from an attempt by the soldiers to smuggle goods into Cote d'Ivoire.

Reporting on this incident, Le Patriote (p. 2) suggests that soldiers from the government's Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) are suspected of the attack on the customs officials' houses. According to the paper, an investigation is underway to determine the perpetrators.

A report in today's issue of pro-opposition daily Le Temps (p. 4) claims that the soldiers who attacked the customs were not coming from outside but from within the government forces deployed at the border town.

In a report today, L'Inter (p. 3) suggests that Friday's attack at the border town could be the result of a permanent "malaise" within the Ivoirian army.

In a related development, a report in Soir Info (p. 3) today says the opposition FPI party is demanding that the government suspend the on-going reform of the army. According to the paper, the party has issued a statement accusing the government of trying to put in place "a militia group" instead of a professional army. Notre Voie (p. 4) carries a statement saying that the party has denounced "a dangerous and unilateral" reform of the national security sector.

3. Conference on victims of recent Ivoirian crisis opens this week in Abidjan

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486770.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486750.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12691-droits-de-l'homme-doudou-diène-prononcera-une-conférence-à-abidjan>

An international conference on the victims of the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire is due to open this week in Abidjan according to the weekend issue of Le Patriote (p. 6). The conference, the report says, is being organized by the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire and will focus on human rights issues. The paper also announces that UN independent human rights expert Doudou Diene is expected to attend the conference and will use the occasion to assess the situation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Notre Voie (p. 5) notes that the arrival of Diene coincides with the government's decision to release political detainees who have been jailed in connection with alleged crimes committed during the post-electoral crisis

4. Ivoirian Prime Minister meets with American businessmen

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486676.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/economie/item/12653-coopération-usa-côte-d'ivoire--le-conseil-d'affaires-ivoiro-américain-pour-un-renforcement-du-partenariat-économique>

A report in the weekend issue of Fraternite Matin (p. 15) said the vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce, Scott Eisner, met on Friday with Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. Eisner, the report said, was accompanied by Ambassador McCulley. Speaking after the meeting, Eisner is reported as saying that U.S. investments and the certification of Cote d'Ivoire for AGOA were the issues discussed during the meeting.

5. Official statement says President Ouattara expected home soon after successful surgery

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486817.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486767.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/486766.html>

Fraternite Matin (p. 6) today published a statement issued by office of the President saying that President Alassane Ouattara has successfully gone a surgery and is expected home soon.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2) also comment on the president's health after the surgery in Paris claiming that President Ouattara is doing well and fit to run the country.

Meanwhile, a report in the pro-opposition daily Notre Voie (p. 2) claims that while the president is recovering, the war for his succession has already started.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

<http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2014/02/09/ivory-coast-to-expand-navy-by-40-ships-to-fight-piracy/>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/09/us-ivorycoast-investment-analysis-idUSBREA180NS20140209>

[Analysis: War-scarred Ivory Coast reopens for business](#)

Reuters-14 hours ago

"Ivory Coast could become one of the motors of economic growth in Africa ... "Ivory Coast has many advantages, like a high level of education ...

[Ivory Coast joins the African gold rush – but it's no quick fix for the ...](#)

The Guardian-2 hours ago

From the sky, Ivory Coast looks like a patchwork quilt, with fields of varying shapes and shades of green and brown woven together. In the 60s ...

[Gays in Ivory Coast find haven on hostile continent](#)

GlobalPost-2 hours ago

The strict social codes prevailing in Ivory Coast apply here too. The patrons include several transvestites, one a 20-year-old teacher who goes ...

[War-Scarred Ivory Coast Is Re-Emerging As West Africa's ...](#)

Business Insider Australia-15 hours ago

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara (L) talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara (L) talks ...

[Ivory Coast To Expand Navy By 40 Ships To Fight Piracy](#)

Ottawa Citizen (blog)-Feb 8, 2014

Ivory Coast is expanding its depleted navy by adding some 40 new vessels to counter piracy threats in the Gulf of Guinea, according to a recent ...

[Investors prowl for African tiger in Ivory Coast](#)

China Post-15 hours ago

ABIDJAN--Ivory Coast is winning the stripes of an African tiger with economic growth of nearly 10 percent less than three years after a bloody ...

[I.Coast's elderly leader in France for 'sciatica operation'](#)

AFP-11 hours ago

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo
6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 7, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivoirian opposition leader meets with head of reconciliation commission
2. Aid workers convoy attacked in western Cote d'Ivoire
3. Inmates, guards wounded following a riot in Abidjan prison
4. Declared to be released on bail, 60 political detainees still in jail
5. Former exiled security and defense forces receive salary
6. Government launches month-long events to mark International Day of the Woman
7. Chocolate company to be opened in Abidjan by 2017
8. Broadcast regulatory body organizes workshop on "Role of proximity radios in development"

1. Ivoirian opposition leader meets with head of reconciliation commission

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486644.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486618.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486589.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486573.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12616-r%C3%A9conciliation-le-fpi-se-dit-dispos%C3%A9-%C3%A0-accompagner-la-cdvr>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says that the leader of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, yesterday made a courtesy call on the head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), Charles Konan Banny. The meeting was the first between the two since Affi N'Guessan was released from jail last August. The paper says the meeting was an opportunity for the opposition leader to share his vision about reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire. Affi N'Guessan is quoted as saying, "The party's vision includes political dialogue and a national forum to help resolve issues related to the political crisis. This vision will help mobilize everyone to examine the causes of the crisis and draw lessons, especially in terms of political and institutional reforms."

After the meeting with Banny, Affi N'Guessan committed to support the reconciliation process reports *L'Expression* (p. 4). In *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2), Affi N'Guessan is quoted as saying, "We have demonstrated our willingness to support the CDVR." *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 7) says that Banny has the important responsibility to accomplish reconciliation in the country. On the opposition side, *Notre Voie* (p. 2) says that the meeting was designed to pave the way for more discussions between the two political heavyweights.

2. Aid workers convoy attacked in western Cote d'Ivoire

A report in Soir Info (p. 7) says that a convoy of aid workers traveling in western Cote d'Ivoire was ambushed on the way from Duekoue to Bogohouo by unidentified gunmen. The paper quotes an unnamed member of the convoy, which was delivering food in the region, as saying that one of the women in the group was raped by the gunmen. Aujourd'hui (p. 3) and L'Inter (p. 3) carry similar stories, with no additional information.

3. Inmates, guards wounded following a riot in Abidjan prison

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486579.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486623.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486601.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486580.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/societe/item/12615-maca-des-detenus-tentent-de-menacer-des-gardes-penitentiaires>

A riot yesterday at the main prison in Abidjan, MACA, led to injuries to seven guards and prisoners reports Fraternalite Matin (p. 14). According to the report, the riot was a result of an attempt by guards to conduct a routine search of cells in the prison.

Pro-opposition paper Le Temps (p.5) says that one person was killed and many others injured as security forces opened fire to end the riot.

4. Declared to be released on bail, 60 political detainees still in jail

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486615.html>

Despite the promise earlier this week that 60 political detainees close to former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo would be released, Soir Info (p. 3) reports that they remain in jail. The paper quotes sources as saying that the plan to release the prisoners was stopped this week by a court clerk acting on the orders of the prosecutor. No reason for the delay has been given by the courts. Notre Voie (p. 2) accuses the government prosecutor of intentionally working to block the release of the 60 prisoners.

5. Former exiled security and defense forces receive salary

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486625.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12618-paul-koffi-koffi-les-militaires-rentres-d'exil-percevront-leur-solde>

Fraternalite Matin (p. 6) quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi as saying that 33 soldiers who recently returned home from exile have started receiving their salaries. According to the paper, the minister said this yesterday at a ceremony in Abidjan. He also is quoted as saying that out of 1900 former defense and security forces who fled the country after the post-electoral crisis of 2011, more than 1400 have returned to home. The minister also explained that those who have started receiving their salary have gone through the identification process that is still underway.

A report in L'Inter (p. 5) quotes Koffi Koffi as saying that once the returning soldiers complete the identification process, they will receive their salary.

6. Government launches month-long events to mark International Day of the Woman

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486641.html>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) says that Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan yesterday launched a month of activities leading up to International Day of the Woman Day on March

8. According to the paper, activities will include conferences, roundtable discussions and an awareness campaign to mark the celebration. The activities will help explore ways to resolve difficulties facing women in the country and to promote gender equality. The prime minister also said that the celebration will empower better participation of women in political and economic activities.

7. Chocolate company to be opened in Abidjan by 2017

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12622-chocolat-l'usine-de-cemoui-ouvre-en-2017-a-abidjan>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486636.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486569.html>

A French company, CEMOI, will open an Abidjan-based chocolate company by 2017 reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 18). According to the paper, the head of the company, Patrick Poirrier yesterday signed an agreement with the director of the Center of Business Promotion in Cote d'Ivoire, Emmanuel Essis, in order to facilitate the start of construction. CEMOI will invest CFA four billion (\$8.2 million) in this business venture. The paper also quotes Poirrier as saying that the company will help create 350 jobs and will supply chocolate to national and regional markets.

A story in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 12) quotes the French Minister of Agriculture Guillaume Garot, who attended the event, as saying, "The chocolate company will help boost cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire." Garot described the project as a "win-win" effort between France and Cote d'Ivoire.

8. Broadcast regulatory body organizes workshop on "Role of proximity radios in development"

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486579.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486591.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486614.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486485.html>

The government audiovisual regulatory body, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), yesterday organized a seminar on the role of local radio stations in community development reports *L'Expression* (p. 10). According to the paper, the seminar brought together mayors and members of regional councils with heads of proximity radio stations to explore ways to use the stations as a tool to enhance community development. The paper quotes HACA president Ibrahim Sy Savane as saying, "Proximity radios are a powerful tool for education, information and development and can help enhance growth of their communities."

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 6) says that the seminar was designed to equip both local leaders and proximity radio stations with the skills and abilities to work together to promote community development.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast's San Pedro port to build refined fuel terminal](#)

The Africa Report

Ivory Coast's second port of San Pedro will build a new refined fuel terminal targeting distribution in the country's west as well as export markets in ...

[France tries to crush ivory trade](#)

Greensboro News & Record (blog)

One of its former colonies bears the name Cote d'Ivoire -- Ivory Coast. It was called that, of course, for one of its most valuable resources and export ...

[Cote d'Ivoire raises taxes on operators, calls](#)

Telecompaper (subscription)

The government of Cote d'Ivoire announced plans to apply a surtax on the country's five telecom operators, raising it to 30 percent of profit from 25 ...

[Ivorian President expected to visit India in May](#)

Business Standard

Côte d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara is expected to visit India in May for the India-Africa Summit, a statement issued by the Indian embassy in the ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo
6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

=====

[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONU CI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 6, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. 60 political detainees released today
2. UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire welcomes the decision to extend the mandate of CDVR
3. San Pedro Port generates more than US \$288 million revenues in 2013
4. Air transport workers start a three-day strike
5. Angry students protest yesterday to demand housing

1. 60 political detainees released today

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486468.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486468.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486501.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486490.html>

According to a report in Notre Voie (p. 2), the government has issued a list of 60 detainees who will be released today from jail. The majority of the political detainees have been incarcerated since the end of the post-electoral crisis in April 2011. The paper also says that the decision to release the prisoners was made yesterday by a judge in Abidjan.

L'Inter (p. 2) reports that the vice-president of an opposition political party, the Union of the New Generations (UNG), Etienne N'Guessan, is among those who will be released. N'Guessan was arrested in October 2012 at the Abidjan airport for his political affiliation. The head of this party, Stephan Kipre, is married to former president Laurent Gbagbo's daughter.

The release of the 60 detainees is an example of "concrete actions designed to diffuse political tensions in Cote d'Ivoire," says Le Patriote (p.4). The paper also notes that 70 people close to the former president were released last week.

2. UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire welcomes the decision to extend the mandate of CDVR

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12582-mandat-de-la-cdvr-l'onuci-salue-sa-prolongation>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486488.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486489.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486467.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486529.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486464.html>

The decree issued this week to extend the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) was praised by the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire reports Soir Info (p. 5). A statement from the UN issued yesterday says that this decision will allow the commission to achieve its important mission, which includes finding a way to give proper attention to the victims of the crisis and to make amends with them. The statement also says that the success of the CDVR depends on the will and participation of the population.

In a related story, a report in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3) indicates that the head of the CDVR, Charles Konan Banny, will be meeting today with the president of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan. According to the paper, the discussions are likely to focus on the political situation in Cote d'Ivoire and the FPI proposal to organize a national forum to find solutions to problems facing the country.

3. San Pedro Port generates more than US \$297 million revenues in 2013

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486511.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486483.html>

A report in in Fraternite Matin (p. 13) says that activities at the port in San Pedro, the country's second largest port, located in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire, generated more than CFA 144 billion (\$297 million) in revenue in 2013. This was announced yesterday by the director of the port, Hilaire Marcel Lamizana, during an announcement ceremony about an industrial forum for the port planned for May. The paper also quotes Lamizana as saying that the revenue represents 20 percent increase over 2012.

A report in Le Jour Plus (p. 5) says that the May forum will bring together nearly 300 companies and 3000 visitors with the goal of making San Pedro a major hub in West Africa.

4. Air transport workers start a three-day strike

A report in Soir Info (p. 8) indicates that workers at all airports outside of the international airport in Abidjan yesterday launched a three-day strike to press for better working conditions. Striking workers are demanding health insurance and elevated pay for working in dangerous conditions. According to the paper, a variety of UN flights were disrupted as a result of the strike.

5. Angry students protest yesterday to demand housing

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486484.html>

A group of students staged a demonstration yesterday on the campus of the country's largest university, the University of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, reports Soir Info (p. 11). The protest was held to demand dorm rooms on campus. "We are here to get more information about when the university authorities will provide us rooms," one of the protestors is quoted as saying. The university reopened in 2012 after being looted during the political crisis in 2011.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Obama sees Ivory Coast as lingering threat](#)

UPI.com

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (UPI) -- Ivory Coast still poses an "unusual" threat to U.S. national security despite gains made since political crises in 2011, ...

[UPDATE 1-Ivory Coast to increase telecoms taxes, regulations](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN, Feb 4 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast will increase taxes on telecoms companies and require them to invest in government bonds this year as part of ...

[I.Coast 'reconciliation' efforts extended](#)

AFP

Abidjan — The president of Ivory Coast has extended the mandate of a national "reconciliation commission", set up to heal the wounds of a conflict ...

[Cote d'Ivoire launches best mining code](#)

spyghana.com

wpid-mining.jpg THE Cote d'Ivoire's newly negotiated mining code would make doing business in the west African country "ahead of the rest of Africa", ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

=====

[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONUCI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 5, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Chairman of electoral commission pledges to organize free and fair elections in 2015
2. Mandate of Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission extended for one year
3. Closed door hearing of former first lady yesterday triggers speculation
4. UN head says political situation in Cote d'Ivoire improving
5. Ivoirian refugees in Liberia call for support
6. NDI, local NGO on reconciliation campaign in western Cote d'Ivoire
7. Suspected killers of Ivoirian journalist arrested

1. Chairman of electoral commission pledges to organize free and fair elections in 2015

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486393.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486399.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486353.html>

Youssef Bakayoko, president of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) yesterday pledged to organize "credible" elections in 2015 reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). Bakayoko was speaking at a ceremony at the CEI offices where members of the commission presented their new year's wishes to the president of the organization in charge of all elections in the country. Bakayoko is reported as saying, "The electoral commission has one battle ahead, to conform to the values of democracy and to enable Cote d'Ivoire to shine in Africa and around the world." He continued, "The CEI will respect accepted international laws by organizing free, transparent and credible elections in 2015."

A report in *L'Intelligent* (pp. 6-7) says that Bakayoko's statement was a reaction to those demanding his resignation. The paper also claims that under the Ouagadougou political agreement signed in 2007 between Ivoirian political leaders at the time, Bakayoko's mandate should have ended two years ago. The paper also argues that if the Ouagadougou accords were respected, all members of the CEI, including the chairman, would be replaced.

2. Mandate of Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission extended for one year

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486400.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12541-côte-d'ivoire-une-année-supplémentaire-pour-la-commission-en-charge-de-la-réconciliation>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486342.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486361.html>

After confirming it privately in conversations, Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara yesterday signed a decree officially extending the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) for one year reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9). The paper attributes the information to CDVR spokesperson, Franck Kouassi Siran, who said that the new mandate of the commission started in September 2013 and will run until September 2014. The report also says that during this period, the commission will organize public hearings for both victims and suspects of crimes committed from 1990 to 2011.

Le Jour Plus (p. 4) carries a French Press Agency (AFP) story confirming the extension of the mandate to give the CDVR time to finish its mission.

3. Closed door hearing of former first lady yesterday triggers speculation

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486389.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486369.html>

The first hearing for former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo was held yesterday in Odienne, in northwestern Cote d'Ivoire reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9). The paper reports that the closed door hearing was the end of the investigation into the former first lady on a variety of charges including murder, aiding rebel forces, breeches of state security, economic crimes and embezzlement of government funds. Mrs. Gbagbo, reports the paper, is also under investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

On the opposition side, *Le Temps* (p. 5) speculates that yesterday's hearing could lead to Mrs. Gbagbo's release. Another opposition paper, *Aujourd'hui* (p. 2), claims that the judges did not find any evidence to support the charges against her. *Notre Voie* (p. 3) also believes that the charges are "unfounded." Pro-government newspaper *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p.2) also speculates on the fate of the former first lady, wondering if she will be released on bail.

4. UN head says political situation in Cote d'Ivoire improving

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486388.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486402.html>

Fraternite Matin (p. 6) reports the representative of the United General Special Representative to Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou, said in an interview that the political situation in Cote d'Ivoire has steadily improved. According to the paper, Mindaoudou said this in an interview with UNOCI FM, the UN radio station in the country. She also commented on a recent UN report that underscored positive recent developments. "I would like to commend the government and all Ivoirians for the efforts made thus far," Mindaoudou is quoted as saying. "The overall situation has improved and I'm happy to see Cote d'Ivoire making progress."

5. Ivoirian refugees in Liberia call for support

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486381.html>
- <http://allafrica.com/stories/201402031507.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486401.html>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 19) says that the UN needs CFA 1.5 trillion (\$3 billion) to provide food and sustenance for refugees in West Africa including the estimated 52,000 Ivoirian refugees living in Liberia. The paper says that Ivoirian refugees living in Liberia since 2011 are living in "difficult conditions." "The main problem for refugees is lack of food," the paper quotes a spokesperson for the UN commission on refugees in Liberia as saying. The report says refugees from across Africa needing assistance live in countries such as Cameroon, The Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad.

Despite the repatriation of many Ivoirian refugees during the past year, more than 50,000 are still living in four camps in Liberia reports *L'Inter* (p.4). The paper also says that attacks last year along the Ivoirian-Liberian border forced many Ivoirians living in the region to flee into Liberia.

6. NDI, local NGO on reconciliation campaign in western Cote d'Ivoire

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and an Ivoirian NGO focused on women's rights have organized a joint campaign in western Cote d'Ivoire to promote reconciliation reports *L'Inter* (p. 4). The campaign will evaluate causes of division and the effects of the post-electoral crisis on women in order to find solutions.

7. Suspected killers of Ivoirian journalist arrested

Three men suspected in the murder of an Ivoirian journalist in November have been apprehended reports *Le Jour Plus* (p. 10). Desire Oue was murdered when he arrived at his home in Abidjan in the middle of a burglary. According to the paper, the suspected murderers are also suspected to have been involved in the hijacking of vehicles and attacks on other residences in Abidjan.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Food crisis for Liberia's Ivoirian refugees](#)

Independent Online

Refugees from Ivory Coast wait to hear their names called during a food distribution in the village of Janzon, near Zwedrou, Liberia.

[Ivoirian Refugees Appeal for More Support](#)

AllAfrica.com

The Ambassadors and representatives were from Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, ...

[Burkina, Ivory Coast hand control of railway to mining firm- PM](#)

Reuters

DAKAR, Feb 4 (Reuters) - Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast have decided to turn over operation of the Abidjan-Ouagadougou railway to mining company ...

[Cashew association pleads for govt intervention](#)

GhanaWeb

The Ghana Cashew Industry Association has petitioned the Ministry of Trade and Industry to initiate talks with the government of Cote d' Ivoire to pave ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

=====

[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONU CI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 4, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Court in Abidjan acquits police officers standing trial for crimes
2. Government renews mandate of the head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission
3. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo begins today
4. American firm to construct sport academy in Bouake

1. Court in Abidjan acquits police officers standing trial for crimes

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12507-procès-le-tribunal-ordonne-la-relaxe-de-10-officiers-et-sous-officiers-de-police>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486277.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486315.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486300.html>

A report in today's *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) says that a court in Abidjan declared ten police officers not guilty of alleged crimes committed during the 2011 political crisis. The report also says that the court, presided over by Diallo Mamadou, ordered that six of the accused should be released immediately. The other four, according to the paper, were released on probation before the trial. The report says that the ten officers were accused of "disobeying orders" in relation to a demonstration held during the beginning of the post-electoral crisis in December 2010.

According to a report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2), the accused police officers told the court that they were responding to instructions given by the then-director general of the police, Bredou M'Bia, so therefore did not disobey orders. The accusation is an issue of who was in charge of the police at the time, former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo or the newly-elected president Alassane Ouattara.

On the opposition side, *Notre Voie* (p. 2), reports that the attorney for the police officers, Bledé Dehora, said that the ten officers were jailed "for nothing."

2. Government renews mandate of the head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2) reports today that the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) has been renewed. According to the paper, President Ouattara has not yet officially signed the decree that would allow the commission to continue its work, however, the paper reports sources close to the commission as saying that the President has verbally said that the mission of the CDVR will continue. The commission was established in 2011 to help restore peace and facilitate reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo begins today

The hearing of the former first lady, Simone Gbagbo, will finally begin today in the northwestern city of Odiénne reports Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2). Gbagbo has been detained in the city since 2011 in connection with crimes committed during the post-electoral crisis. The paper also says that the hearing will take three days and will be a closed-door hearing.

4. American firm to construct sport academy in Bouake

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486293.html>

A report in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 9), says that the Minister of Youth, Sports and Entertainment, Alain Lobognon, and the head of an American firm, The Principal Partnering Group, LLC, signed yesterday an agreement for the construction of a sports academy in Bouake, in central Cote d'Ivoire. According to the terms of the agreement, the American firm will provide funds for the construction of a sports facility that will serve more than 1000 students.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[US to support preparations for Cote d'Ivoire's polls in 2015](#)

Global Times - The US will support Cote d'Ivoire in preparations for the 2015 presidential elections, the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs ...

[In Cote d'Ivoire, Civil Society Leads Effort to Realize Reparative ...](#)

AllAfrica.com - Nearly three years after violence in Cote d'Ivoire claimed the lives of over three thousand civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands, victims have ...

[One-side justice will plaque Cote D'Ivoire: PP Singh](#)

Press TV - Press TV in its Africa Today program has interviewed Ms. Param-Preet Singh, Human Rights Watch about Cote D'Ivoire's post election violence and ...

[UK To Increase Cooperation With Francophone Countries](#)

Ghana - He assured that the UK would invest in the agriculture sector of Cote d'Ivoire to help it achieve its goals outline in the national development agenda by ...

[Ivory Coast hopes for golden future as mining sector opened up](#)

BBC News - A major investment conference is under way in Ivory Coast, as the government tries to attract foreign money after years of civil war and instability.

[INTERVIEW-West Africa eyes regional gas company as power ...](#)

Reuters - Regional economic pillars Ghana, Ivory Coast facing gas shortages. * Want to pool resources to import liquefied natural gas. * Seeking to partner with ...

[Mali's Azalai Hotels Plans \\$165 Million for West Africa Growth](#)

Bloomberg - The Bamako, Mali-based company will build hotels in Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea and Niger and will renovate another in Mauritania, Bally said in an ...

[Government urged to organise exhibitions for investment](#)

BusinessGhana - Mr Adabla, in an interview with the Ghana News Agency during the Investment in Cote d'Ivoire (ICI 2014), said the Ivorians identified the needs of ...

[Vice President Amissah Arthur underscores the need to ensure ...](#)

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation - The World Bank, led by its Vice President for the African Region Makhtar Diop said the bank has injected over \$1b into Cote d'Ivoire and is ready to ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

=====

[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONUCI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

February 3, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. United States to support electoral commission, DAS Bisa Williams says
2. Business forum ends with more than \$800 million pledged in investments in Cote d'Ivoire
3. French President Hollande's plan to visit Cote d'Ivoire sparks controversy
4. A report says more than 100 homes occupied by former rebels released

1. United States to support electoral commission, DAS Bisa Williams says

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486112.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486048.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486008.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486074.html><http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12397-pr%C3%A9sidentielle-2015-les-etats-unis-vont-accompagner-la-ci-selon-mme-bisa-williams>

A meeting between the U.S. State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs Bisa Williams and the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), Youssouf Bakayoko on Friday was covered over the weekend by several newspapers. Fraternite Matin (p. 6) reports DAS Williams as saying after the meeting, "I was here to inform Mr. Bakayoko that the United States is ready to support Cote d'Ivoire and the CEI to ensure that the 2015 presidential elections are held under positive conditions." The paper also reported DAS Williams as saying, "We strive to reinforce institutions that play an important role in democracy."

Pro-opposition daily Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5) suggests that the U.S. is apparently concerned by the lack of organization of the 2015 presidential election and has started putting pressure on authorities in Cote d'Ivoire to organize a credible election. Aujourd'hui (p. 3), another pro-opposition daily, claims that the U.S. is pressing for the appointment of a new chairman of the electoral commission before the elections. Le Temps (p. 12) carries a similar report saying that DAS Williams called on Ivoirian authorities to speed up reform of the CEI and the review of the register of voters.

2. Business forum ends with more than \$800 million pledged in investments in Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486105.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/486068.html>

A report in a supplement in the weekend issue of Fraternite Matin said the international business forum, "Invest in Cote d'Ivoire" ended on Friday with hopes that, as a result, Cote d'Ivoire could see investments of more than \$800 million. The paper quotes Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan as saying that these potential investments are from the more than 1,200 foreign investors who attended the forum. The paper also quotes DAS Williams as saying that the U.S. delegation

attending the forum was “impressed” by the event. “Our plan for Africa and especially Cote d’Ivoire is to boost our relations in all domains.” The story also quotes the head of the U.S.-based Corporate Council on Africa, former Ambassador Robert Perry as saying, “Investment is a real boost for Cote d’Ivoire, especially at a time when the country is emerging from a political crisis.” Perry is also quoted as saying that, “This forum is a sign that economic activities have resumed in Cote d’Ivoire.”

Speaking at a reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley, L’Inter (p. 9) quotes DAS Williams as saying, “We are here not because things are going poorly, but rather because we see that Cote d’Ivoire is prepared to work with American private companies.” The report also says that the American business delegation is interested in investing in agriculture, energy, finance, health, public infrastructure and security. Ambassador McCulley is quoted as saying, “American companies have a long history of doing business and investing billions of dollars in Cote d’Ivoire.”

In a related story, Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7), reports that FPI party leader Pascal Affi N’Guessan said that development is not something that is politically divisive because, “We are all concerned about the economic recovery of our country which can only emerge from investment in the private sector.”

3. French President Hollande’s plan to visit Cote d’Ivoire sparks controversy

- <http://cameroonvoice.com/news/article-news-14043.html>

A potential visit by the president of France, Francois Hollande, is expected before the end of the month reports opposition paper Notre Voie (p. 4). According to the story, which cites a European newsletter on Africa, Hollande will visit the country for the first time since he was elected in 2012. The paper says that while the visit is seen as “normal” by supporters of President Alassane Ouattara, the majority of Ivoirians believe that Hollande’s visit could be a “bad sign” for democracy and human rights. The paper suggests that since the end of the post-electoral crisis in 2011, Cote d’Ivoire has become, “The home of political detainees and violations of human rights.” The paper supports its argument by citing that more than 80,000 people are still living in exile and 700 political detainees are imprisoned.

Another opposition paper, Aujourd’hui (p. 9), says that the recent release of political detainees by the government of Cote d’Ivoire was a result of pressure from President Hollande. The paper suggests that the release was done “to please French authorities” before the visit.

4. A report says more than 100 homes occupied by former rebels released

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484987.html>

A report in Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5) says that more than 100 homes, illegally occupied by former rebels, have been vacated. According to the paper, this was announced by Coronel Ehousou Aka, the head of a committee tasked with investigating the issue. Aka is quoted as saying, “The commission has received more than 400 petitions from people demanding the release of their homes.” He also says that the effort to free these homes is an effort to accelerate reconciliation and restore “normalcy” in social and political life. “All of those who believe in peace and reconciliation should hand over homes that they are illegally occupying and military leaders who support these ideals should support this effort.”

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[US to support preparations for Cote d'Ivoire's polls in 2015](#)

Global Times - The US will support Cote d'Ivoire in preparations for the 2015 presidential elections, the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs ...

[UK To Increase Cooperation With Francophone Countries](#)

Ghana - He assured that the UK would invest in the agriculture sector of Cote d'Ivoire to help it achieve its goals outline in the national development agenda by ...

[Ivory Coast hopes for golden future as mining sector opened up](#)

BBC News - A major investment conference is under way in Ivory Coast, as the government tries to attract foreign money after years of civil war and instability.

[INTERVIEW-West Africa eyes regional gas company as power ...](#)

Reuters - Regional economic pillars Ghana, Ivory Coast facing gas shortages. * Want to pool resources to import liquefied natural gas. * Seeking to partner with ...

[Mali's Azalai Hotels Plans \\$165 Million for West Africa Growth](#)

Bloomberg - The Bamako, Mali-based company will build hotels in Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea and Niger and will renovate another in Mauritania, Bally said in an ...

[Government urged to organise exhibitions for investment](#)

BusinessGhana - Mr Adabla, in an interview with the Ghana News Agency during the Investment in Cote d'Ivoire (ICI 2014), said the Ivorians identified the needs of ...

[Vice President Amissah Arthur underscores the need to ensure ...](#)

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation - The World Bank, led by its Vice President for the African Region Makhtar Diop said the bank has injected over \$1b into Cote d'Ivoire and is ready to ...

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)

[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,206 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

3,805 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

13,663 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

7,188 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,868 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

19,102

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

13,417 daily

=====

[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONU CI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate